

THE LAST

SPEECH

284

18

Am

OF

John

Edward Fitz-harris,

At the time of his

EXECUTION

AT

TYBURN

The First of *July*, 1681.

THIS day, pursuant to the Sentence pass'd at the *Kings-Bench Bar at Westminster*, on Mr. *Edward Fitz-harris*, for *Treason, &c.* he was near the *Tower Gate*, on *Tower-hill*, delivered into the Custody of the Sheriffs of *London and Middlesex*, viz. *Slingsby Bethel* and *Henry Cornish* Esquires; who upon the Place sign'd a Discharge for him, to the Lieutenant of the *Tower*. Then he was put on a Sledge, and thence conveyed through the City of *London* to *Newgate*, where he overtook *Oliver Plunket*, who was just before on another Sledge, passing to the same Place of Execution.

Where being come, (soon after *Plunket's* private Prayers, &c.) *Fitz-harris* ask'd Captain *Richardson* whether the Sheriffs had a Warrant for the disposal of his Body, Captain *Richardson* answer'd *Yes*. Then he desired Dr. *Hawkins* Assistance, which the Sheriffs readily granted, and called for him to go to him on the Sledge; which the Doctor did, and on his Knees embraced him, and continued a private Discourse with him for some time.

Sheriff

Sheriff Bethel ask'd Mr. Fitz-harris, *What have you to say?* Mr. Fitz-harris answered, *The Doctor of the Tower would answer for him, he having left his Mind with him,*

Mr. Sheriff Bethel. *You will do well to discharge your Conscience.*

Fitz harris. *I have left it all with the Doctor in Writing, under my hand, who will communicate it with Witness to the World.*

Doctor Martin of Wood-street being at the same time in the presence of the Sheriffs, desired Master Fitz-harris to declare whether he died a Protestant or a Papist. He answered. Having left his mind fully with Doctor Hawkins, he hoped it might be satisfactory. The Doctor replied, it would be more satisfactory to declare himself there, and that it was no shame to die a Protestant. To which Master Fitz harris replied as before.

Then Master Fitz-harris said, *Good People,*

This infamous kind of Death is much more irksome to me than Death it self: Such Judgments as these my Sins against God may justly bring upon me, and I do most humbly submit unto it. But as to the Crimes which I now die for, I take God to witness, I was no further concerned in the Libel, than to discover to the King what Practises of that kind were against him, being employed to that end, though those that employed me refused to do me Justice at my Trial. And I call God to Witness, I never had a Farthing of Money of the King in my life, but on the Account of the like Service. And as to the Witneses that have sworn against me, I do here solemnly declare, now at my Death, that I have not seen the French Ambassador since the beginning of the breaking out of the Plot, neither have I had any Acquaintance with him. And as to his Confessor, I never spoke with him in my life; neither have I had any dealing, either directly or indirectly, in my life with them, though Sir W. Waller and the rest swore most falsely to the contrary. And how like it is that the French Ambassador would give three thousand Crowns for writing that Libel, I leave the World to judge. What I may further declare, I have left with Doctor Hawkins. I forgive all the World, and do hope that God will forgive me. I beg the Prayers of all good People for a happy Passage into the other World.

Master Fitzharris desired to know of the Sheriffs, whether his Body might not be at the disposal of his Wife, without Quartering. Upon which the Sheriff read him the Warrant.

